

I Claim:

1. A license plate lock comprising:
  - a substantially rectangular back bar for mounting over the front face of a license plate, the back bar having opposed long first and second edges;
  - a lock mounted on the back bar, the lock being movable between a locked and an unlocked position;
  - a substantially rectangular front bar for installation over the back bar;
  - engagement means on the back bar for engaging the lock when the lock is in the locked position; and
  - relatively slidable rails on the back and front bars configured to permit the front bar to slide relative to the back bar along its longitudinal axis.
2. The license plate lock of claim 1, wherein the back bar has a pair of apertures therethrough dimensioned and spaced for receiving standard fasteners used to affix a vehicle license plate to a standard vehicle license plate holder, the front bar covering the fasteners when installed over the back bar.
3. The license plate lock of claim 1, wherein the rails comprise pairs of opposed, spaced fingers.
4. The license plate lock of claim 1, wherein the front bar is dimensioned to fit over the back bar.

5. The license plate lock of claim 1, wherein:

the back bar comprises a substantially rectangular back wall having front and back faces, opposed long first and second edges, and opposed short third and fourth edges; opposed first and second side walls extending outwardly from the back wall at the long first and second edges, and an open front;

the front bar comprises a substantially rectangular front wall having front and back faces, opposed long first and second edges, and opposed short third and fourth edges, opposed first and second side walls extending outwardly from the front wall at the long first and second edges, and an open back; and

the rails comprise complementary sets of pairs of opposed, spaced fingers extending from the first and second side walls of the back bar and from the first and second side walls of the front bar.

6. The license plate lock of claim 5, wherein one set of fingers angles outwardly from the first and second side walls of the back bar and the other set of fingers angles inwardly from the first and second side walls of the front bar.

7. The license plate lock of claim 5, wherein:

the back bar further comprises opposed third and fourth side walls extending outwardly from the back wall at the short third and fourth edges; and

the front bar comprises a third side wall extending outwardly from the front wall at the short third edge.

8. A license plate lock comprising:

fixed means for mounting over the front face of a license plate using standard fasteners used to affix a vehicle license plate to a standard vehicle license plate holder;

cover means for covering the fixed means and the standard fasteners, the cover means being slidable relative to the fixed means between a first position in which one of the standard fasteners is exposed and a second position in which the standard fasteners are covered by the cover means; and

locking means for locking the cover means in the second position.